

Children's Services Commission

Minutes of 2003 Meetings

**Children Services Commission
Minutes
January 27, 2003**

Present: Commission Chair Representative Vicky Riback Wilson; Vice Chair Sen. Steve Stoll; Senator Pat Dougherty; Representative Yvonne Wilson; Judge Susan Block; Charles Jackson; Director, Dept. of Public Safety; Linda Roebuck; Deputy Director, Dept. of Mental Health; Mark Steward; Director, Div. of Youth Services; Debra Scott; Dept. of Social Services; Brenda Horstman, Dept. of Economic Development; Michelle Zeilman, Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Julie Rollins, Dept. of Corrections.

Representative Riback Wilson opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance and introduced her intern, Amy Walsh.

The minutes from the November 18th meeting were approved.

Bert Schulte from Department of Elementary and Secondary gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$16,799.35 as of December 31, 2002. Treasurer's report was approved.

Role and Purpose of the Commission – Representative Riback Wilson

There are many commissions and a lot of people concerned about the fate of children in our state. For the past year to two years, this commission has said that we have two primary areas of interest: 1) children's mental health issues and 2) early childhood development and school readiness.

Discussion was held on other commissions that are focusing on the fate of the children of this state.

- Per legislation passed in 1999, the **Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents** was developed as a sub-committee of the Children Services Commission.
- Representative Riback Wilson serves on the **Child Abuse, Custody and Neglect Commission** by virtue of chairing this Commission. The chair of the Child Abuse, Custody and Neglect Commission is Judge Thea Sherry. The commission focuses on foster care, better understanding and definition of best interest of the child and coordination of public policy institutes around the state to get better academic and research perspective on public policy affecting children.
- Supreme Court Judge Limbaugh in cooperation with Speaker Hannaway and Speaker Pro Tem Kinder established last the **Supreme Court's Commission on Children's Justice** which will focus on the foster care situation in this state. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Holstein will chair this commission.

- **Family and Community Trust.**
- **The First Lady Lori Hauser Holden will chair a commission that is working on early childhood issues particularly focusing on school readiness from zero to eight years of age.** Debra Scott explained that this is a relatively new area that groups across the nation are looking at in terms of what does it really mean to be school ready and how to measure school readiness. There are several state agencies represented on this commission. It is a 16-state initiative funded by the Kauffman, Ford and Packard Foundation. The purpose is to draft a list of indicators for the state pertaining to school readiness. These indicators will help this state to measure whether our children are entering school ready to succeed. Debra Scott serves on this commission and will be the liaison between the First Lady's commission and the Children Services Commission.

Rep. Riback Wilson stated that given the fact that we now have several commissions working simultaneously, it is important that this commission decide what is unique about the Children Services Commission and what role we want to play. Under statute, this Commission is entrusted to make reports regarding legislation and policy that affect children. The Children Services Commission is directed by statute to do many of the things that these new commissions are also undertaking. We need to make sure we are not duplicating efforts.

If we are to be a clearinghouse function and a brokering function, we need to clearly define our commission as a clearinghouse and brokering group that will be able to funnel information by using liaisons, sub committees and public testimony and where appropriate make recommendations for rule and policy changes, legislation or funding changes.

Senator Stoll recommended that each group should make a report or presentation to the Children Services Commission

Senator Stoll also suggested that advocacy groups could watch and advise the Commission of any pending legislation affecting children.

Per statute the Children Services Commission is suppose to submit an annual report to the Governor. It was felt that this report would be useful to the Commission. Judge Block felt that the budgeted money could be used for the purpose of preparing the annual report. Mark Steward indicated that additional funding may be available through the Kauffman Foundation.

Representative Riback Wilson reminded everyone that the Children Services Commission receives an appropriation for operation from the state. Statute states that the money remains with the Commission and does not revert at the end of the year. The Commission's appropriation has been \$10,000 and comes out of OA's budget. Commission members were asked to keep in mind the

possibility of staff, perhaps a part-time person and how to utilize this person. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Representative Riback Wilson proposed that when asked about the Children Services Commission and what it is that the commission is doing this year, the answer could be summarized in the following sentence:

The Children Services Commission, representing all three branches of government and the public sector, will take a leadership role in identifying and evaluating current programs and make recommendations on state services that affect children zero to five.

Debra Scott agreed to compile an up-to-date list or inventory of where the commission needs to look for programs affecting children zero to five years of age.

Department of Social Services – Mark Steward and Debra Scott

Mark Steward, Division of Youth Services, reported that approximately 30 state legislators from Louisiana visited Kansas City to observe our state's juvenile system. He also reported a pilot project in Columbia called "Tack Back the Night." This is an early intervention program for identifying teen troublemakers.

Debra Scott, Office of Early Childhood Development, reported that they are continuing to move ahead with early childhood development and reorganization.

Department of Health and Senior Services – Michelle Zeilman

Injury report card is now complete reflecting the rate of injury per age group and statistics on types of injuries. The report is available on their website.

Department of Economic Development- Brenda Horstman

DED is hopeful that discretionary tax credits for neighborhood assistance programs will be able to continue next year.

Department of Public Safety – Director Charles Jackson

Director Jackson commented on a grant program in the St. Louis area dealing with gang issues. He also referred to an article in the Missouri Farm Bureau magazine regarding meth and children. Stopping the production meth is a big challenge and it very upsetting to see what people do to children under the influence of meth. He advised the commission of other issues regarding child welfare and meth including health issues when children are present during the manufacturing of meth.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Bert Schulte

DESE is reviewing assessment tools for the “No Child Left Behind” program in keeping with the spirit of the federal legislation and the impact on Missouri’s children.

Family Court of St. Louis County – Judge Block

Reminded everyone of the upcoming 100th birthday of juvenile court celebration scheduled for February 3, 2003 at the State Capitol

Department of Mental Health – Linda Roebuck

Autism conference is scheduled for May 2003. Additional information will be sent to commission members.

There are currently five systems of care sites in the state. In Greene County there is a system of care agreement where the Department of Mental Health will help the Division of Family Services during an investigation.

Linda agreed to be the point person on children’s mental health issues.

Department of Corrections – Julie Rollins

As a result of a recommendation in the report from the Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents, the Department of Corrections has enhanced visiting between incarcerated mothers and their children. Once per month, a therapeutic visit will occur where mothers and their children will participate in a lecture and activities to do together. The first visit was held in January and was a success.

Formation of sub-committees

Discussion followed on the role of sub-committees and how they could serve the work of the Children’s Services Commission. Three sub-committee were agreed on: Sub-committee on Children’s Mental Health, on Early Childhood, and on Children of Incarcerated Parents. Julie Rollins agreed to chair the sub-committee on Children of Incarcerated Parents.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 24th at 10:00 AM. in Hearing Room #1.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

**Children Services Commission
Minutes
February 24, 2003**

Present: Commission Chair Representative Vicky Riback Wilson; Charles Jackson, Dept. of Public Safety; Tina Shannon, Governor's Office; Brenda Horstman, Dept. of Economic Development; Gary Kempker, Dept. of Corrections; Bert Schulte, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education; Mike Fester, Division of Family Services; Dennis Gragg, Division of Youth Services; Tricia Schlechte, Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Cynthia Quetsch, Director, Dept. of Labor; Dept. of Mental Health; Debrorah Scott; Dept. of Social Services; Julie Rollins, Dept. of Corrections; Pam Rich, Citizens for Missouri's Children; Anne Dannerbeck, University of Missouri; Gus Kolilis, Dept. of Social Services.

The minutes from the January 27, 2003 meeting were approved.

Bert Schulte from Department of Elementary and Secondary gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$16,824.40 as of January 31, 2003. Treasurer's report was approved.

Tammy Gillespie, University of Missouri Outreach Program

Ms. Gillespie gave a presentation regarding an outreach program at the Potosi Correctional Center developed by incarcerated fathers and state 4-H staff called the Living Interactive Family Education (LIFE) Program. LIFE is funded through a grant from the Children, Youth and Families at Risk Initiative and administered by the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension Program. LIFE allows incarcerated parents and their children an opportunity to interact more closely in child-oriented environments. Fathers are with their children during the 4-H meeting and work on an activity together. LIFE fathers also attend monthly parenting skill classes. This program has been going on for about three years. Participants cannot have any conduct violations or be sex offenders. Facilities in Bonne Terre and Licking want to replicate the program. A grant pending within the Missouri Foundation for Health will help create an educational video and a staff manual so that the program can be replicated at the correctional facility in Charleston through the local Extension Office.

Gary Kempker, Director, Department of Corrections, commented that programs such as LIFE have a tremendous impact not only on the offenders and their families, but on the safety of the institution as well.

Gus Kolilis, Department of Social Services

Mr. Kolilis gave a presentation regarding the impact of drugs, particularly methamphetamine, on families. The addiction transcends parental instincts. They

become so pre-occupied in obtaining or making the drug, they totally disregard their responsibilities and do terrible things to their children. The issues are complex. How we protect the children must be balanced against family preservation.

Linda Roebuck, Deputy Director, Department of Mental Health, commented on work that DMH has been doing with DFS in the Springfield area. Discussion is ongoing on ways to get DMH involved earlier in some of the investigations and family evaluations to more clearly assess risk, versus the need for removal, versus the need for termination of parental rights. Involving the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the System of Care helps understand the family addiction and family dynamics present in family addiction.

Linda Roebuck, Department of Mental Health

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse is coordinating with the Division of Youth Services to develop standards of care in the DYS programs for treatment of substance abuse problems. These standards could be used in other adolescent programs around the state.

DMH is working with Division of Family Services and the System of Care in Springfield. It was decided that a mental health professional will be placed in the DFS office to assist with the evaluation of a child or parent with substance abuse developmental disabilities or psychiatric problems when children enter into protective services. Also, they are adding an intensive community rehabilitation program for families that need services to preserve the family unit, when they don't need to remove the child from the home.

Gary Kempker, Department of Corrections

Over the last several years, the Department of Corrections inmate population has grown just under three offenders per day which is equal to about a prison a year. Offenders that are not successful on re-entry into society make up a significant number of those that come back to prison. DOC continues to focus on re-entry initiatives and recently did some restructuring of responsibility. Julie Rollins will now be responsible for all re-entry issues.

Mike Fester and Deborah Scott, Department of Social Services

Mike Fester announced that Steve Roling has been named as the new Director for the Department of Social Services.

DSS is working with sponsors on several pieces of legislation relating to the foster care system and the child abuse and neglect hotline.

Deborah Scott reported that victim issues have surfaced related to childcare. Senator Dougherty is working on legislation to tighten up childcare licensing standards.

Work is continuing with the Department of Health, Department of Mental Health and Education as partners on the First Lady's committee regarding early childhood school readiness. A report from that committee should be ready in a couple of months and will be shared with the Children's Services Commission.

Tricia Schlechte, Department of Health and Senior Services

The Health Resources Services Administration is making funding available for states to do statewide planning around Early Childhood Systems Development. Meeting with DSS, DMH and DESE to coordinate an application for those funds.

The Department continues to work with DMH on activities related to suicide prevention. DHSS has been training individuals in local communities to train individuals who interact with children and adolescents to identify those at risk for suicide. To date 69 individuals are available to provide training in schools, churches and medical facilities, etc.

Mandatory newborn hearing screening became effective January 1, 2002. Most recent statistics show that 99% of newborns are receiving hearing screening by three months of age. Of those tested 95% have passed the hearing screening and the remaining 4% were referred for further evaluation.

Cynthia Quetsch, Department of Labor

The Department of Labor continues to educate employers of the state to provide safe and healthy work places for children as part of legislation passed last year.

Brenda Horstman, Department of Economic Development

Neighborhood Assistance Program application deadline was February 15, 2003. A large number of applications have been received, and they will be reviewed for a July 2003 start date.

Youth Opportunity Program is still accepting applications.

Charles Jackson, Department of Public Safety

DPS is looking at a change in the monitoring program for detention facilities. During an audit last year it was discovered that some detention facilities were locking up kids that they should not have. Operating with a contract with an outside source they will bring this service within the Department, saving over \$100,000 that could be awarded in grants.

An extension of one year was given for some grant monies that had been awarded and returned. DPS will look at requests that they could not fulfill before.

DPS will review requests from agencies that returned funds and see whether money is returned on a regular basis. If so, they may deny future requests.

Chair Wilson asked if the Children Service Commission would qualify as an applicant for these federal funds. Director Jackson will check and report at the next Commission meeting.

The STAT Team has authority to investigate a child's death or get involved in investigation concerning children issues with the approval of the county officials. If the investigation goes to another county, then the STAT team cannot follow that investigation unless that county grants authority. The STAT Team is trying to get legislation this year to give them authority to complete the investigation, if it goes into another county, without getting permission to work in that county.

Dennis Gragg, Division of Youth Services

The National Juvenile Justice Association sponsored the Juvenile Justice Symposium for legislators in early February at Capitol Plaza. There was a good turn out and positive response from the local legislators and local court communities. It seemed to be a valuable experience for all involved.

The Division of Youth Services is making budget its top priority. Continued budget reductions will be devastating to youth services.

Chair Vicky Riback Wilson

Beth Reed Hoeffler will be chairing the First Lady's commission on school readiness and will be working with Deborah Scott on early childhood issues.

For the next meeting, Wilson asked members to comment on how budget reductions to their departments will impact the children in this state. This would give the Commission a chance to send letters to Appropriation Committees or take a stand on the floor, if there are certain things that the commission needs to target.

Anne Dannerbeck, University of Missouri

The University put out a media release regarding the report from the Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents resulting in a lot of media contacts. Anne reported doing approximately two interviews a week for the past few weeks.

She indicated she is interviewing youth who are in DYS facilities and looking at the relationship between their life experiences and parental incarceration.

Chair Vicky Riback Wilson

The Commission has three sub-committees:

1. Children's Mental Health – Co-chaired by Linda Roebuck from DMH and Beth Griffin from Citizens for Missouri's Children.
2. Early Childhood – Co-chaired by Deborah Scott from DSS and Kathy Thornberg from the Association for the Education of Young Children.
3. Children of Incarcerated Parents – Co-chaired by Julie Rollins from DOC (other co-chair to be determined).

Approval was given to Julie Rollins for members of the Children of Incarcerated Parents sub-committee to remain the same as those on the original task force.

Sub-committees will be asked to give an update at each Commission meeting.

Staffing for Commission

Chair Wilson asked that each sub-committee come back and let the Commission know what type of support they think might need. Commission members were also asked to get back to Representative Riback Wilson within the next month with recommendations regarding the type of support needed and the types of models for this staff person.

Next Commission meeting will be Monday, March 31, 2003 at 10:00 AM. Hearing Room 6

**Children's Services Commission
Minutes
March 31, 2003**

Present: Charles Jackson, Dept. of Public Safety; Brenda Horstman, Dept. of Economic Development; Althea Bussell, Dept. of Corrections; Sandy Rempe, DPS; Anne Dannerbeck, project research at MU, DYS; Mark Steward, Dir. Div. of Youth Services; Paula Nickelson, Dir. Div of Maternal, Child and Family Health; Connie Cahalan, Dept. of Mental Health; Charles Brown, DESE; Linda Roebuck, Dep. Director of Mental Health; Pam Palacios, Mothers and Children Together; Barb Baker, Center of Women in Transition.

Minutes: read and approved. Treasurer's report, approved.

Comments: Because of having a fund balance, the Commission may subcontract with people to help staff either the Commission or the subcommittees (addressed more fully later in meeting).

Report from the Chair:

Legislative update (distributed to members) from Missouri Juvenile Justice Association is a comprehensive look at bills effecting children related to various departments.

Letters from the Commission In the past the Commission has written letters to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tem regarding various issues. We can hold this open as a possibility. If there is legislation that you are aware of and we need to weigh in on it as a Commission, please alert the Commission. In the past we did send a letter that outlined our areas of concern, but never saw it acknowledged in the legislative process. Next legislative session provides an opportunity to incorporate this into the agenda and draw on the work that comes out of the subcommittees. The Commission could move forward a group of bills as a public policy, rather than just individual "tinkering bills".

Child Abuse, Neglect, and Custody Commission (CANC) continues to meet. That Commission has written a letter to the Governor saying they want to continue to work on foster care issues and public policy. They offered a liaison to work with the Supreme Court and will continue to work with the Supreme Court as they formulate more suggestions.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Subcommittee on Early Childhood. Chairs Deborah Scott and Kathy Thornburg. They have a list of suggested members, to whom Vicky will write

official letters of appointment. She noted the level of authority of individuals on this list saying that if we are going to build any sort of agenda, we need early buy-in from the other branches of government. Still awaiting completion is a draft of the function and scope of committee. 0 – 3 year-olds are the focus, since other groups are focusing on the later early childhood ages.

Questions and Comments. Is there something that addresses **diversity**, non-mainstream cultures, since there is such a heavy population of new immigrants among Missouri's children. Numbers of Latinos now surpass those of African-Americans. We need language that specifically acknowledges the needs and values of these other cultures.

There will inevitably be some **overlap** between departments. We want to ensure cross-fertilizations between departments, but we do not want to duplicate each other. For example, the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force looked at those children through the lenses of school issues, mental health issues, and connection to an incarcerated parent. Let us use the expertise of appropriate departments.

Subcommittee on Children of Incarcerated Parents. Althea Bussell presented minutes from their initial meeting (distributed) telling subcommittee history and mission statement. Additional members that would be beneficial to add would be individuals from 4H, guidance counselor, DESE. Mark Steward has information on a similar committee in Arizona.

Questions and Comments. The **suggested timeline** – produce a preliminary report in November and a final report in beginning of January 2004. Have a Commission meeting the first week of January to get an early start getting legislation filed and moving.

Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health. Co-Chair Linda Roebuck reported that legislation was passed last year aimed at **not** ending parental rights; however, it is not being followed. The Subcommittee is looking at implementation: how to get judges and families to follow this legislation. Their goal is to pull together input from the three subcommittees and add grass roots support.

Staffing issue for sub-committees. Chairman Wilson. The three subcommittees each operate a little differently and will have different patterns of staffing. We will look at a series of subcontracts at a low compensation level, e.g. grad student research contract for \$1000. At this point there is not a clear message from the committees what the nature of a larger more comprehensive position would be. As Department staff is cut, this position becomes more crucial.

Questions and Comments. Charles Jackson and Sandy Rempe can look at possibility of a Public Safety grant to find a support person for some of this work.

Having Anne Dannerbeck continue in this position would provide continuity. The Juvenile Justice advisory group gets funds, and they might be willing to fund something for this. Research and writing based at the University of Missouri would be very helpful.

Would this work be applied to each sub-committee? Could Anne work across the committees to integrate recommendations. Timeline? Would this research need to be ready for the November report?

If DPS money is used, the fund period gap could be bridged with funds from CSC. If funded as a grant, DPS wouldn't have to put it out on bid, since Anne Dannerbeck has already been working with the Committee for some time.

Report, Anne Dannerbeck. Working with the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force, the mothers and children planning group has talked about putting together a manual. A Table of Contents from a similar manual serves as a model. She is looking for foundation funding to fund its publishing.

Linkages and coordination of efforts. Rep. Wilson suggests that at the June meeting the Commission coordinate what it will do with Family and Community Trust, FACT. FACT has had a transition in membership, changes in funding status.

Commission efforts can also be coordinated with Supreme Court Commission on foster care, and the Child Abuse, Neglect and Custody Commission, CANC; members of Missouri Children's Trust Fund are being invited to meet with the Commission. These moves are to ensure that we are linked on a regular basis with groups in other state positions.

Department Reports.

DPS. Charles Jackson. Met for the first time working on parenting, exploring what the basic expectations of parenting are. They are looking for some less traditional ways to distribute their information. Suggestions for this included the community of faith resources, Rickman Center in Jeff City.

Jackson commented that if they do nothing but provide a comprehensive survey of what all the programs are, they have done a lot. No one body seems to know about all the programs; if you don't know about them, you can't use them. DPS federal funding has been really confused in the last two months. One particular Bush reauthorization can't be accessed for another year. They have established 6 new categories in the Department plus a catch-all category—innovative programming. They want every program to have an evaluative component, so that in subsequent years they can fund programs that are getting results. The prevention block grants are what not being funded by Congress, Title V. \$200 million has been shifted from juvenile programs to Homeland Security. Jackson

will show what has been funded federally in the past compared to what the President is funding now at the next meeting.

Concern about a Senate Bill (36?) allowing people who go into system care for less than 24 hours to be put into an unregistered facility. It turns out that Missouri is a haven for these types of places. People are coming to Missouri to set them up. Mark Steward and Sandy Rempe have statistics and press articles. This is a “hot issue,” one that the Commission should address by drafting a letter.

Visited with Missouri Drivers Educators Association. Dir. Jackson asked for a day or a week to highlight Drivers Ed and raise public awareness. 1/3 of people killed in auto accidents are between 18 – 23 (and over 55).

Department of Economic Development. Brenda Horstman.

TANF transition-they are working to make it seamless and keep kids from falling through the cracks. They are working on summer jobs programs and legislation to put NAP and YOP together into the sustainable communities act, trying to maintain the best parts of the program, but reduce the total amount of funds for tax credits

Department of Mental Health.

Connie Cahalan, lead person in System of Care team, reports working on expectations for the departments and mission. The state team should include DPS. It includes 3 parents. Five sites are developing local teams. They developed an internal document, but realized that they needed to spell out what the common goals are between departments. Ask, “What does your department want to get out of System of Care?” Then, firm up the outcomes and strategies revealed in this process. HB 459 SB685, Medicaid reform. It does establish a system of care, and we support that. May is Children’s Mental Health Week. It started in Missouri over ten years ago. Other state’s have picked up the idea and use Missouri’s poster.

DHSS. Paula Nickelson, Director, Div. of Maternal, Child and Family Health.

Infant mortality continues to be a big issue in Missouri. Looking at it over a couple of decades, it has gone down due to medical breakthroughs, but people aren’t sure why we can’t get past a certain point on this in Kansas City, St. Louis city, and the Bootheel. In St. Louis, it is very specific to neighborhoods. Looking at this long and hard with the help of the epidemiology staff, they are looking at a research grant to further explore some indicators related to gynecological health and subsequent infant mortality, has been a difficult problem, addressed on a nationwide basis.

DESE. Charles Brown reported pm a meeting looking at K–12 and closing the achievement gap for African American students and marginal learners, regardless of race. People came to Lincoln University from all over state, not just

educators, to share views about what is going on in education. Marginal learners aren't doing well: they explored why. Rich anecdotal information emerged that will move discussion into the substantive. Policy recommendations will be made in July. They will move to Kansas City and focus on Latinos, the largest subgroup in the state, then go to the Bootheel to look at rural representation. A Jeff City summit will ask the three questions they used: what programs, policies, or behaviors should we start, what should we stop doing, and what should we continue. The State Board will adopt the policy. People are finally beginning to realize the importance of early childhood.

Brown and Dannerbeck report that student interviewees describe the school experience as "hostile," they are ostracized, stigmatized, bullied, and rejected by peers because of their poverty, incarcerated parents, and high mobility. Is there a way to address school environments in general, because the children experience school as hostile? We also need to address the larger representation of multiple cultures. For example, the Bosnian population in St. Louis is largest outside of Bosnia. Latino population is higher than African American, and there are more Latinos in rural areas.

Div. of Youth Services. Mark Steward. Steve Roling, is the new Director of DSS. Steward reported on the kind of story you really love: a very tough young lady in the system years ago, who at 26 is married, and graduating from Warrensburg.

Mothers and Children Together, St. Louis. Pam Palacio. Mothers and Children Together is losing their advocacy component, which means Pam will not be working there. She will continue to work on child custody issues with mothers in Vandalia. Their work is branching out to include rural women as well as St. Louis women.

New business. Question: What would you like to see as the result of your work on CSC and the subcommittees over the next two years?

Members respond:

Village concept – Everybody is needed, and we expect everybody to be involved in children's issues. We need coordination of programs and departments.

Articulate a vision for Missouri's children – we all have different missions, but need to connect what we are all doing, look at the full spectrum, and engage in information sharing and linking it together.

Information at the level of superintendents in school districts – how do they know who to turn to for assistance, and what are the resources for the various problems they encounter?

Education system – We have missed opportunities to get what we know into schools.

What happens to children of incarcerated parents? Children do not let it be known that a parent is incarcerated. Children go through stages of loss; they have monumental problems. This is a large population.

Primary Prevention. We spend huge amounts of dollars on treatments and cures; look at and use national programs where there are examples, models, outcomes, and research. Keep our focus on primary prevention.

Political realities—We need to bring around some people who don't have the same realities, get both sides of the aisle to buy into our assumptions and the knowledge of what the consequences are over time of these problems -- *political preventive medicine*.

Next meeting - April 28, 2003. 10 a.m. – noon. Hearing Room 2.

Synthesize some of the values stated here—what we're about what we're trying to accomplish; what to send to legislators, especially, new legislators who don't know who CSC is.

Meeting adjourned.

**Children's Services Commission
Minutes
April 28, 2003**

Present: Commission Chair Rep. Vicky Riback Wilson, Brenda Horstman, Dept. of Economic Development; Anne Dannerbeck, Research Professor at MU; Julie Rollins, Dept. of Corrections; Gary Kempker, Dept. of Corrections; Charles Jackson, Dept. of Public Safety; Cynthia Quetsch, Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations; Eric Lowder, Policy Analyst, MO-SPAN; Katrina Harper, Crider Center for Mental Health; Melodie Friedebach, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education; Tricia Schlechte, Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Ed Morris, Dept. of Mental Health; Deborah Scott, Dept. of Social Services; Mark Steward; Div. of Youth Services; Linda Roebuck, Dept. of Mental Health.

Minutes from the March 31, 2003 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report was approved with a balance of \$16,800.86 as of March 31, 2003.

Special Presentation regarding MO SPAN

Eric Lowder, Policy Analyst, MO SPAN, and Katrina Harper, Senior Director of Children and Family Services, Crider Center, presented a broad framework from MO SPAN's perspective regarding children with mental health needs.

MO SPAN is the parent organization in the State System of Care for children with mental health needs. MO SPAN fills the role for the state to comply with its federal obligation to have parents included at policy making levels for part of the federal grant community sites – Partnership With Families Grant in St. Charles and the Show-me Kids Grant in Springfield. MO SPAN also assists parents throughout the state as issues arise pertaining to children with mental health problems.

MO SPAN supports the concept of the system-wide care to serve the children of Missouri smarter and as a result the kids and families are going to get better services because all of the professionals are learning how to work together. Through partners working better the kids can be moved home quicker and the families have the support that they did not have before because all of the systems were not engaged properly.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION CHAIR

Staffing for the Sub-committees and Commission

Chair Riback Wilson informed the Commission that DPS would be able to fund a support person for the sub-committees and commission. Anne

Dannerback has submitted a proposal to the Department of Public Safety. Basically, Anne will be the liaison between and among the sub-committees and provide the framework for research.

Approval was given by the Commission to proceed in hiring of Graduate Research Assistants and clerical support for the sub-committees and the Commission.

Child Abuse, Neglect and Custody Commission (CANC)

Commission met last week that included much discussion about the Foster Care Bill. The Commission did letters to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tem going on record about having concerns regarding unlicensed care.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Early Childhood: Co-chair Deborah Scott reported that she and Co-chair Kathy Thornburg have met and have outlined a work plan. Sub-committee members have been identified. Letters will be sent from Commission Chair's office asking the identified individuals to serve on the sub-committee. Meetings have been scheduled for May, July and September.

Children's Mental Health: Co-Chair Linda Roebuck reported that the sub-committee had previously decided to target last year's legislation SB923 that dealt with preventing families from giving up custody, however the sub-committee has decided to now focus on the outcome of pending legislation regarding System of Care.

Parental Responsibility: Co-Chair Anne Dannerbeck reported that she is meeting with Tammy Gillespie, University of Missouri Outreach Program and Kim Leon, faculty member HDFS at the University of Missouri. The sub-committee has been reviewing material on parenting expectations. Chair Riback Wilson suggested contact be made with Evon Mathews at Lincoln University regarding the recently announced parenting initiative.

Children of Incarcerated Parents: Co-Chair Julie Rollins asked for suggestions for a co-chair for the sub-committee. Julie will discuss further with the Commission Chair. A co-chair for this sub-committee will be determined prior to the next meeting. Commission Chair suggested the Representative Danielle Moore and former State Representative Glenda Kelly would be good additions to the sub-committee.

Anne Dannerback reported that the Truman Public Policy Institute asked her to write a four-page policy brief on the state of Children of Incarcerated Parents. Anne will work with Julie and members of the sub-committee in terms of

identifying what should be included in the four-page report to condense down the 120 page Task Force Report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Safety – Charles Jackson.

DPS is looking for funding for the School Resource Officers. Funding for that program has been taken out of the budget and schools are being referred to possible federal money. DPS provided one-third of the money for the officer and the school provided the remainder.

Mental Health – Linda Roebuck

Brochures were distributed regarding the Spring Training Institute sponsored by the Department of Mental Health at the Lake of the Ozarks on May 28-30, 2003.

May is Suicide Prevention Month. Billboards will be coming out the first week of May. Linda noted that Missouri has more deaths due to suicide than homicide.

Ed Morris reported that the week of May 4 through 10, 2003 is Children's Mental Health week with a number of activities planned throughout the week.

Health and Senior Services – Tricia Schlechte

DHSS has established the Missouri Council on the Prevention and Management of Overweight and Obesity. This council will document the health implications and economic impact of overweight and obesity for all Missouri families and to recommend evidence or research based responses that can be undertaken by all stakeholders, employers, schools, insurers, elected officials, individuals, families, communities, state and local government. The first meeting of the Council was held on March 10, 2003.

The following work groups have been established: Prevalence and Health Impact, Economic Impact, Programs, Services and Funding, and Barriers to Prevention and Management. The final recommendations from this council are targeted to be complete by September 2004.

Elementary and Secondary Education – Melodie Friedebach

DESE is continuing to focus on improving student outcomes and results. Last month Charles Brown conducted a forum in Jefferson City on closing the achievement gap, particularly for African American learners. That initiative has been broadened with two more forums held. One forum was held in Charleston and one in Kansas City with the focus on closing the achievement gap for all marginal learners. No Child Left Behind requires all states to look at closing the achievement gap for all kids in the next 12 years. Those forums along with work at the Divisional level will result in presenting some policy recommendations to the State Board sometime this summer.

Economic Development – Brenda Horstman

One component of the TANF Program is moving to the Workforce Development Division to have better communication in the regional areas.

Corrections – Gary Kempker

Transition from Prison to Community Initiative (TPCI) is progressing. Director Kempker along with other staff recently met with Police Chiefs, Prosecutors. Director Kempker also met with the group that commissioned the Moody Report to increase the realization that incarceration also involves families and children. Efforts are ongoing to get support for transition issues.

Social Services – Mark Steward

One hero in the Iraq war was a former DYS client that was released two years ago from Camp Avery. Story was covered in the Post Dispatch.

Future Commission Meetings

June 23rd Full Commission will meet with the sub-committees to identify the individuals to bring into a two-day meeting in August. Presenters at the two-day meeting need to be contributors that can educate and direct commission members on what is being done for Missouri's children from birth to 18 years of age.

July – Sub-committees will meet to invite the identified resources to the two-day meeting in August.

August 25th and 26th - A two day meeting with the identified resources.

October 27th – Full Commission meeting.

November 24th - Full Commission meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Children's Services Commission
Minutes
June 23, 2003

Present: Representative Vicky Riback Wilson, Commission Chair; Linda Roebuck, Dept. of Mental Health; Steve Roling, Dept. of Social Services; D. Kent King, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education; Deborah Scott, Dept. of Social Services; Mark Steward, Dept. of Social Services; Veronica Stovall, Dept. of Social Services; Paula Nickelson, Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Sandy Rempe, Dept. of Public Safety; Julie Rollins, Dept. of Corrections; Gary Waint, State Courts Administrator's Office; Keely Black, Graduate Research Assistant at MU; Anne Dannerbeck Janku, Research Professor at MU; Dick Matt, Missouri Alliance; Marilyn Nolon, Gateway; Mona Prater, Consultant-Finck & Associates; Pamela Palacios, Children and Families First; Barbara Baker, Center for Women in Transition; Heather Smith and Catheryn Cross, Volunteers- Dept. of Public Safety.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION CHAIR

Minutes from the April 28th meeting were approved. Treasurer's report was approved with a balance of \$16,862.14.

Chair Wilson explained that the Commission would be developing a budget based on the \$10,000 appropriation. Since the Commission is in the process of contracting for services to support the work of the Sub-committees and the Commission, the option exists to go into supplemental if necessary, the only way the Commission can access the \$16,862.14.

Pursuant to 210.103 (4) RSMo, the Children's Service Commission is exempt from the sweep of interest on Commission's funds and therefore the Commission will be able to keep the \$25.66 in interest.

Chair Wilson congratulated Gary Kempker on his "Communicator of the Year Award."

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Anne Dannerbeck and Gary Waint

Dr. Dannerbeck distributed a copy of her report entitled, "Difference between Delinquent Youth with and without a Parental History of Incarceration". Anne went over the results of her research which involved 1112 juveniles. Funding for this project was provided through a grant from the Department of Public Safety and the State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

Gary Wait gave a presentation regarding the automated classification system developed by OSCA for on-line completion of risk and needs assessment on juvenile offenders. The software system developed by OSCA is called J-TRAC and is currently being used in the 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 41st and 45th Circuits. Additional information regarding J-TRAC can be obtained on-line at www.osca.state.mo.us.

**Children's Services Commission
Minutes
August 25, 2003**

Present: Representative Vicky Riback-Wilson, Commission Chair; Judge Susan Block, Family Court of St. Louis County; Beth Griffin, Citizens for Missouri's Children; Brenda Horstman, Dept. of Economic Development; Colleen Baker Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations; Bert Schulte, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education; Gary Kempker, Dept. of Corrections; Julie Rollins, Dept. of Corrections; Tricia Schlechte, Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Bill Heberle, Children's Trust Fund; Charles Jackson, Dept. of Public Safety; Representative Brian Baker; Representative Danielle Moore; Linda Roebuck, Dept. of Mental Health; Senator Bill Foster; Veronica Stovall, Dept. of Social Services; Sandy Rempe, Dept. of Public Safety; Steve Rolling, Dept. of Social Services; Deborah Scott, Dept. of Social Services; Mark Steward, Division of Youth Services; Marie Flowers, Mothers and Children Together; Kate Wright, Interested Citizen;

COMMISSION CHAIR

Representative Vicky Riback Wilson opened the meeting by introducing the facilitators Chris Egbert and Colleen Dowd, followed by a review of the agenda and stating the main focus of the retreat – **How can the Children's Services Commission make government work better to improve outcomes for children?**

Chair Wilson gave a brief overview of the history of the Children's Services Commission followed by self-introductions by attendees.

IDENTIFY VALUES OF THE COMMISSION

Values are defined as – **The fundamental principles that guide public policy and establish priorities for the Commission's work.**

The following list of values were submitted for discussion by Commission Members:

- The welfare of children is a shared responsibility of parents and communities, government and the private sector.
- People have a right and a responsibility to be involved in decisions that affect them.
- Children have a right to health, safety, education and permanency.
- Programs should be evidence based.

- Positive youth development produces healthy, productive citizens/workers in the future.
- Children should be treated humanely and with dignity and respect.
- Public policy should support families and protect children.
- Prevention is key to positive outcomes for children.
- An investment in children should be based on sound research and reliable data.
- Integrated and coordinated services yield better results.
- Prevention is more cost effective than treatment.
- Early intervention saves lives and dollars.
- Public policy should be based on sound research and reliable data and should include an evaluation component.

After much discussion the Commission agreed upon the following values:

- **Our future depends on putting children first and fully investing in their future.**
- **The welfare of children is a shared responsibility of parents, families, communities, government and the private sector through coordinated and integrated efforts.**
- **Children should be treated humanely and with dignity and respect.**
- **Children have a right to health, safety, education, permanency and stability and significant adult support.**
- **Families and children have a right and responsibility to be involved in decisions that affect them.**
- **Public policy should be based on sound research and reliable data to include an evaluation component.**
- **Prevention and early intervention are critical to positive outcomes.**

CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission agreed upon the following roles:

Improve Government Process

- **Coordination of services to Children and Families.**
- **Simplification of systems associated with children and family services.**
- **Improve collaboration among state agencies providing services to children and families.**
- **Reduce duplication.**

Advocating for key issues

- **Through legislative authority.**
- **Policy development.**
- **Advocating as a body.**

- **Providing a forum for analysis and discussion.**

Catalyst for Change

- **Facilitating best practices pertaining to children and family services.**

IDENTIFY CRITICAL ISSUES

The Commission identified the following as critical issues that the Children's Services Commission can help with:

- **Children's rights – what are they in Missouri.**
- **Cross agency (divisions, departments, courts) and cross program coordination of services to a family.**
- **Teens aging out of the child welfare system.**
- **Young children in poverty is the fundamental challenge.**
- **The cost-avoidance of programs and treatment of children should be calculated and supported with research and documentation.**
- **How a coordinated mental health system can work with a de-centralized education system to improve outcomes for children.**
- **How do our computers talk to each other and access information not otherwise protected.**
- **Cross training in best practices among those that provide services to children.**
- **Employee turnover and morale problems affecting delivery of services to children.**
- **Putting children at risk due to residual effects of funding cuts to and information sharing among agencies or entities.**
- **Impact of health behaviors on children:**
 - > **Tobacco use**
 - > **Physical activity**
 - > **Nutrition**
 - > **Injuries**
 - > **Immunization**
 - > **Drugs**
 - > **Alcohol**

ITEMS IN THE BIN FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **Computer information integration.**
- **Forms integration.**
- **Children getting injured on the job (reporting of).**

SUB-COMMITTEES

Early Childhood: Deborah Scott distributed an update on the subcommittee's activities. The Early Childhood Sub-committee has about 25 members. The subcommittee's charge was to develop recommendations to present to the Commission for the development of a coherent early childhood system that would result in healthy development and high quality education from Missouri's youngest children. The subcommittee has been working on what it would take to get Missouri from where we are today to a system where every child in Missouri would have access to what they needed to be healthy in the early years and to be prepared for success in school.

The subcommittee divided into the following four work groups:

1. State Infrastructure and Early Childhood Programs
2. Economic Opportunities and Safe Environment
3. Ready Schools and Family Support
4. Health and Mental Health

The committee will have recommendations to present to the Commission on October 27th.

Children of Incarcerated Parents: Julie Rollins reported that the subcommittee wanted to produce something more tangible to present to the Commission than simply recommendations. The subcommittee divided into work groups to focus on the following areas:

1. Legislative Recommendations

This group is preparing and creating some legislative recommendations and also reviewing those that were submitted by the Governor last year, which Rep. Danielle Moore will review before they are presented to the Commission in October.

2. Manual for Incarcerated Parents

Manuals were reviewed from Colorado and California that informed those entering the criminal justice system what happens at the time of arrest until they are released from prison. The work group took the manuals from other states and is in the process of making a manual Missouri specific which included input from State Court Administrators, attorneys from Corrections and Division of Family Services. Judge Block will also review the manual for any areas that she feels needs to be covered. A table of contents was distributed to the Commission.

3. Best Interest of the Child

A white paper has been completed on what the subcommittee felt was the meaning of 'the best interest of the child'.

At the Commission's meeting in October, the Children of Incarcerated Parents Subcommittee will discuss how the manual gets distributed, legislative recommendations and a white paper on the definition of the best interest of the child.

Bill Heberle, Executive Director of the Children's Trust Fund, indicated that they might be able to assist with funds for printing the manual for Incarcerated Parents.

Parental Responsibility: Anne Dannerbeck Janku reported that in a study of parental incarceration and juvenile delinquency young people were asked what prerequisites they would have before having children. Marriage was not often mentioned as a prerequisite. They did express that they wanted to have children and raise them differently than how they were raised. When asked how they would do that, they had no idea and obviously were not aware of parenting resources that are available. There are three great programs in Missouri – Parents as Teachers, Parent Link and Head Start.

The subcommittee is looking at how to reach at-risk parents when they first have children and how to better market parenting resources. A plan will be developed on unusual ways to market the resources.

Children's Mental Health: Beth Griffin reported that the subcommittee would meet next month. The subcommittee had a bill last year for a comprehensive child mental health care system which was passed by the legislature, but was incorporated into a bill that was vetoed by the Governor. The subcommittee's task now is to draft language for a bill that has the support of the stakeholders and the Commission.

Summary of the subcommittees' work by Chair Wilson

There are two pieces to the subcommittees' work. Each subcommittee will have its own report that will go forward in its entirety as the subcommittee's work, but the Commission will choose particular sections of those reports to highlight in the annual report which will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly.

SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM GOALS

Short-term and long-term goals include producing the subcommittee reports, drafting the necessary legislation, and getting the Commission's annual report to the Governor and members of the General Assembly.

At the October meeting the Early Childhood Committee and the Children of Incarcerated Parents Committee will make presentations to the Commission.

At the November meeting, the Children's Mental Health Committee and the Parental Responsibility Committee will make presentations to the Commission.

In December or early January, the Commission's Annual Report and legislative recommendations will be finalized. Throughout the legislative session the Commission will follow legislation and decide what action the Commission wants to take in terms of intervention and support.

OTHER BUSINESS

Minutes from the June 23, 2003 meeting were approved.

Commission has entered into a contract for support work for the Commission with Anne Dannerbeck Janku and Keely Long through the University of Missouri.

Ex-officio Members

Chair Wilson asked the Commission for recommendations for ex-officio appointments, a different membership category from those groups that we continue to work with but are not appointed, ex-officio members.

Action Item: Bring recommendations to the October meeting.

Election of Vice Chair of the Children's Services Commission

Mark Steward nominated Senator Bill Foster for the position of Vice Chair. Charles Jackson seconded the nomination.

Senator Foster was elected as Vice Chair of the Children's Services Commission by acclamation.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Next Children's Services Commission meeting will be on Monday, October 27, 2003.

**Children's Services Commission
Minutes
October 27, 2003**

Commission Members Present:

Commission Chair Vicky Riback Wilson; Vice Chair Bill Foster; Senator Dougherty; Representative Danie Moore; Representative Yvonne Wilson (via conference phone); Dorn Schuffman, Dept. of Mental Health; Gary Kempker, Dept. of Corrections; Steve Roling; Dept. of Social Services; Charles Jackson, Dept. of Public Safety. Others: observers and advocates from the public

COMMISSION CHAIR

Commission Chair Vicky Riback Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the commission that Representative Yvonne Wilson was unable to attend but would be connected via conference call.

Senator Foster will chair a sub-committee to address filling vacancies for ex-officio members the two slots for judicial members.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25TH RETREAT

Commission Chair asked for the following changes to the minutes from the August Retreat:

Page 1. Under Commission Chair; last sentence, delete "the" and "s" to change to read "improve the outcomes..."

Page 4. Under Sub-committees: second sentence, add Sub-committee after "Early Childhood."

Page 5. Under 1. Legislative Recommendations, add "by" to it read "submitted by the Governor..."

Minutes were approved with the above changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bert Schulte reported a September 30, 2003 balance of \$16,255.62.

Commission Chair reported that she has approved the first payment of approximately \$5,000 to the University of Missouri for the services of Dr. Dannerbeck and Keely Black. There was also a couple hundred dollars of expenses associated with sub-committees that bring the balance down to a little over \$10,000. Treasurer's report was approved.

The services of graduate student Keely Black's will end this semester.

Commission Chair asked for approval for part-time services of another graduate student through the University of Missouri. Motion was approved.

COMMISSION'S CORE VALUES

The Commission approved the following core values as reported from the August 25th Retreat:

- **Our future depends on putting children first and fully investing in their future.**
- **The welfare of children is a shared responsibility of parents, families, communities, government and the private sector through coordinated and integrated efforts.**
- **Children should be treated humanely and with dignity and respect.**
- **Children have a right to health, safety, education, permanency and stability and significant adult support.**
- **Families and children have a right and responsibility to be involved in decisions that affect them.**
- **Public policy should be based on sound research and reliable data to include an evaluation component.**
- **Prevention and early intervention are critical to positive outcomes.**

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION

Commission approved the following Roles of the Commission as reported from the August 25th Retreat:

Improve Government Process

- **Coordination of services to Children and Families.**
- **Simplification of systems associated with children and family services.**
- **Improve collaboration among state agencies providing services to children and families.**
- **Reduce duplication.**

Advocating for key issues

- **Through legislative authority.**
- **Policy development.**
- **Advocating as a body.**
- **Providing a forum for analysis and discussion.**

Catalyst for Change

- **Facilitating best practices pertaining to children and family services.**

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report is part of the Commission's responsibility per state statute. Keely Black and Dr. Dannerbeck are working on the Annual Report and will have a draft report for the Commission's review before the end of the year.

There will be two reports:

- 1) Each sub-committee will create a formal report that includes their recommendations.
- 2) This Commission will submit those reports to the Governor and the Legislature as appendices. In addition, in our annual report we will underscore the particular recommendations from the sub-committees' that the Commission intends to take some action on next year.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Sub-Committee and the Early Childhood Sub-Committee presented their reports and their recommendations.

The Commission accepted the reports from the sub-committees.

Commission Chair asked the members to review the reports and recommendations from both sub-committees. At the November 24th meeting, the Commission will begin the discussion on which recommendations will be highlighted in the Commission's Annual Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Children's Lobby Day will be held on January 27th. At the Commission meeting on November 24th, a discussion will be held on what role the Commission might want to play in Children's Lobby Day in working with the Family and Community Trust Board (FACT) and/or on our own to draw attention to children in this state.

Steve Roling, Director, Department of Social Services, introduced Fred Simmens as the Children's Division Director.

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

The next Commission will be held on Monday, November 24th. The Children's Mental Health Sub-Committee and the Parental Responsibility Sub-Committee will present their reports and recommendations.

The Commission meeting on Monday, January 26th will be a joint meeting with the FACT Board from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

**Children's Services Commission
Minutes
November 24, 2003**

Present:

Commission Chair Rep. Vicky Riback Wilson; Vice Chair Sen. Bill Foster; Sen. Patrick Dougherty; Rep. Danie Moore; Rep. Brian Baker; Rep. Yvonne Wilson (via conference phone); Judge Susan Block; Dorn Schuffman, DMH; Steve Roling; DSS; Charles Jackson, DPS; D. Kent King, DESE; Mark Steward, DYS; Veronica Stoval, DSS; Colleen White, DOLIR; Brenda Horstman, DED; Bill Heberle, Children's Trust Fund; Tricia Schlechte, DHSS; Linda Roebuck, DMH; Julie Rollins, DOC; Beth Griffin CMC; observers and advocates from the public.

Minutes From October 27TH Meeting

Minutes from the October 27th meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. King reported an October 31, 2003 balance of \$10,615.13, but there is no spending authority at this point. Treasurer's report was approved. Commission Chair asked for and received a motion to request supplemental spending authority in January to cover the cost of staff support from a University graduate student and other expenses.

Action Item: Dr. King agreed to take care of requesting supplemental spending authority.

Commission Chair

Since many visitors present were interested in the DOC visitation policy, Commission Chair Wilson requested Julie Rollins to report on DOC policy changes under consideration.

Commission Chair Wilson mentioned that a Commission web site is being developed and will be found on the OA web page.

She commended everyone involved in the Incarcerated Father Collaboration Project. The film depicting what is going on with parenting classes for fathers in the prison was excellent, and perhaps the film could be viewed at future Commission meeting. This is a joint project of several departments.

Department of Corrections Visitation Policy – Julie Rollins

Director Gary Kempker asked Julie Rollins to take the lead in reviewing the Visitation Policy. Representatives from the Department of Social Services and Department of Corrections' staff are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, November 25th to go over the policy with focus on the following:

- Establishing and maintaining family ties.
- Ensure that the children coming into the visiting rooms at DOC facilities are safe.

Director Kempker asked for the revised policy to be on his desk as soon as possible with the intention of having a new visiting policy out by January 2, 2004.

Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

Parental Responsibilities Sub-Committee – Charles Jackson, Chair

Dr. Dannerbeck presented the recommendations from the Parental Responsibilities Sub-Committee.

In addition to the Recommendations presented, it was the consensus that the sub-committee should include an emphasis on inter-agency coordination of disseminating information on parenting programs to all branches of government; county health departments; and Children's Trust Fund. Through Social Services and Health and Senior Services information on parenting programs should go to all childcare providers.

Action Item: Place this on agenda for additional discussion at the joint meeting with FACT Board.

The sub-committee will also survey State Departments to find out what parenting programs are currently going on within their department. The survey will include questions to determine the basis for various approaches.

Mental Health Sub-Committee – Beth Griffin & Linda Roebuck, Co-Chairs

The sub-committee presented draft legislation regarding mental health services for children for review by the Commission Members.

The Commission agreed to support some type of legislation, but recommended revisions to the draft legislation.

It was also the consensus of the Commission that the Sub-committees should continue to meet focusing on children's mental health and education.

Early Childhood Sub-Committee – Deborah Scott & Dr. Thornburg, Co-chairs

The Commission agreed to recommend that the Children's Services Commission develop enabling legislation to create, under the auspices of the Children's Services Commission, a formalized body to coordinate programs and policies aimed at children 0 – 5. It was agreed that the Department of Health and Senior Services, through its Early Childhood systems grant, would take the lead in facilitating this group for the first year. The Department of Health and Senior Services submitted recommendations and guidelines for a body corporate and politic. The Commission agreed that the body would build upon the recommendations of the Early Childhood Sub-committee.

The Sub-committee's final report has been sent to the sub-committee members for review and additional input. Copies will be sent to the Commission members prior to the December 15th meeting.

Annual Report

Keely Black distributed a general format for the annual report and recommendations. Commission members are to review the format prior to the December 15th meeting, at which time a decision will be made on the recommendations that are to be included in the annual report, particularly as they apply to Early Childhood.

The Commission's Annual Report will include the following four sections:

- Section I State Agency Reports
- Section II Plans and Goals
- Section III Recommendation for Statutory Initiatives
- Section IV The state of Children in Missouri

Department Reports

Mental Health – Dorn Schuffman

The Department of Mental Health applied and received a number of grants.

- Joint grant with Social Services to look at funding for children services.
- Grant to send leadership staff from Social Services and Mental Health to the policy academy. Senator Shields will also attend the academy.
- St. Louis City and County received a grant focusing on child welfare.
- Application has been submitted for the Northwest area of the state that will also focus on child welfare.

Children's Trust Fund – Bill Heberle

The Children's Trust Fund is entering into an agreement with the National Center of Parents as Teachers to provide some Trust Fund money to school districts that are interested in a teen parenting program.

Economic Development – Brenda Hortsman

The Department's web site has been redesigned and now provides contact information for all of the regional team members in the state. Assistance with problem solving or information for a particular geographic area can be obtained by contacting a team member for that region.

Labor and Industrial Relations – Colleen White

Worker's Comp Data revealed youth injuries for workers under the age of 18 has decreased. It is unclear at this time if the injury rate has gone down or if the number of youth workers has gone down. Data is being validated.

Action Item: Figures to be submitted to Keely for inclusion in the report if validated in time. A request was also made to be on the agenda for a presentation at the joint meeting with the FACT Board in January.

Youth Services – Mark Steward

The William Woods College Campus Program in Fulton will be replicated by the Catholic University at Washington, DC for their juveniles.

Elementary and Secondary Education – Dr. King

The Board voted to not change the early childhood special education criteria that involved levels for early screening.

National Assessment of Educational Progress scores showed positive gains for reading and math at the fourth and eighth grade level.

Approval has been received for Reading First grants for selective school districts that have a relatively high percentage of kids reading at below grade level and meet the specified poverty level.

During the first week of December, school districts and the state will be issuing report cards on educational progress for the past year.

Health and Senior Services – Tricia Schlechte

The Department of Health and Senior Services has received the following grants:

- Oral Health Collaborative Systems
- Pregnancy Related Assessment Monitoring System
- Study of the Uninsured
- Early Childhood Systems Grant
- USDA Team Nutrition
- Missouri Fetal Alcohol Awareness (FAS) and Prevention Project

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program has twice as many qualifying low-income citizens that will be served boxes of nutritious commodity foods each month due to additional funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As a result of outreach efforts, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) has resulted in over 65 applications to participate in this program. CACFP reimburses for nutritious meals served to children and adults in day care facilities; school aged children in after school enrichment programs in high risk, low-income areas and meals to children residing in emergency homeless shelters.

The Department has filed a rule change to add the chickenpox vaccine to the required vaccines need for school entry in 2004. The vaccine is currently required for entry into childcare only. The Department's Immunization Advisory Committee recommended this change, which is a requirement in 35 other states, to further decrease incidence of chickenpox.

Commission Chair Proposal

The Commission Chair proposed that the Commission use a consensus approach to determine the content of the annual report and which Subcommittee proposals will be specifically recommend by the Commission in the annual report. The Chair suggested that the sub-committee reports be attached in total. The Commission will decide which elements

of the sub-committees' recommendations will be elevated to Commission recommendations, meaning that the Commission is endorsing that approach, and whether it be for legislation or a policy or rule change.

If any Commission member objects to any of the sub-committee recommendations, no formal recommendation will be made. Critical issues for next year, the Commission's values and focus will also be included in the report.

Consensus approach, as presented by the Commission Chair, was approved by Commission Members.

Future Commission Meetings

An additional meeting of the Commission has been scheduled for December 15th from 10:00 AM to noon in House Hearing Room 2.

**Children's Services Commission
Minutes
December 15, 2003**

Present:

Rep. Vicky Riback Wilson, Chair; Colleen Baker, DOLIR (for Catherine Leapheart); Sen. Bill Foster; Bill Heberle, Children's Trust Fund; Brenda Horstmann, DED (for Kelvin Simmons); Charles Jackson, DPS; Gary Kempker, DOC; Kent King, DESE; Rep. Danie Moore; Steve Roling, DSS; Dorn Schuffman, DMH; Mark Steward, DYS; Rep. Yvonne Wilson (teleconnection)

Members of the public and CSC subcommittees, including Deborah Scott and Kathy Thornburg, Co-chairs, Early Childhood Subcommittee; Anne Dannerbeck, CSC Liaison; Sandy Rempe, DPS; Steve Renne, DSS; Julie Rollins, DOC; Tricia Schlecte, DHSS; Veronica Stovall, DSS Children's Division; Cande Iveson and Dr. Bill Altemeier, Early Childhood Subcommittee; Tammy Gillespie, Children of Incarcerated Parents Subcommittee.

Report From Commission Chair

Minutes from the November 24th meeting were approved. Treasurer's report was approved with a balance of \$10, 433.17.

Representative Riback Wilson reported that the Child Abuse, Custody and Neglect Commission is interested in looking at what constitutes "the best interest of the child" and is contemplating a series of public hearings over the next several months to explore this.

Action Item: Submit any comments to Representative Riback Wilson and she will convey to the Chair, Judge Thea Sherry.

Annual Report, content and organization - Commission Chair

One section of the annual report will include the purpose of the Commission – **To improve the lives of children by making government work better.** This section will list members; how often the Commission meets; activities and accomplishments of this year; and meeting minutes.

Another section will recapitulate the roles and values that were identified at the August 2003 retreat.

The report will indicate that the Commission supports the work of the sub-committees. The Commission Chair proposed that the following be stated in the annual report, **"Failure to be included herein should not be interpreted as opposition or lack of interest in any particular recommendation. The recommendations included in the report are only those for which there was no objection and which will be**

actively pursued by the Children's Services Commission in the coming legislative session."

Action Item: Proposed statement was approved by the Commission.

Commission Chair recommended that the Commission priorities be highlighted in boxes and actual recommendations and more specific language be in the body of the report.

Action Item: Recommendation approved.

Another section will cite accomplishments of each Department. Keely Black will be e-mailing a draft for each Department to review.

Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

Children's Mental Health – Dorn Schuffman

Director Dorn Schuffman recommended that the Commission not endorse or draft specific legislation but rather state general or key principles:

- ➤ The Department of Social Services and Department of Mental Health will work together to expand Medicaid services that would enable children to live with their families.
- ➤ Department of Mental Health will be charged with leading the development of a comprehensive children's mental health care system, which would include leading a planning process that would involve all of the agency members of the Children's Services Commission.
- ➤ Department of Mental Health and Department of Social Services will review cases of children in custody of Social Services to determine which cases are in custody due to the need for only mental health services and develop a plan to transfer those children to community based services and the development of a plan to move them out of custody and back to their family.

Suggested textbox for the Children's Mental Health Sub-Committee:

- ➤ **The Children's Services Commission advocates legislation to develop a comprehensive system of mental health for children as recommended by the Sub-Committee on Children's Mental Health.**

Children of Incarcerated Parents Sub-Committee

Suggested textbox for the Children of Incarcerated Parents Sub-Committee:

- ➤ **Print and distribute guide on custody and guardianship issues of children of incarcerated parents.**

- ➤ **Work with the Sentencing Advisory Commission on alternative sentencing for non-violent offenders that are in the best interest of the child.**
- ➤ **Teleconferencing as a method for custodial placement discussion in order to involve parents in decisions concerning their children.**

Parental Responsibilities Sub-Committee

Suggested textbox for Parental Responsibilities Sub-committee:

- ➤ **Pursue work on publicizing research-based information on parental education programs and the criteria to help parents make informed choices about the quality of parent education programs.**

Early Childhood Sub-Committee

Suggested textbox for Early Childhood Sub-Committee:

- ➤ **Support legislation to cap the total number of children that can be cared for without licensure.**
- ➤ **Support legislation that would require all registered childcare providers to complete basic training in health and safety and subsequently to complete a health and safety checklist.**

Possible Agenda Items for Joint Meeting with FACT Board

- ➤ Scope of action and responsibilities of each group; how/where do we complement each other?
- ➤ How to co-ordinate activities.

Action Item: Commission Chair will speak to Charles O'Reilly (FACT) to develop the agenda. Send suggestions for agenda items to Commission Chair.

Department Reports

Mental Health – Dorn Schuffman

Missouri was selected as one of six states to attend the Policy Academy. There were great presentations regarding funding alternatives and opportunities to look at the issues with individuals from other states.

Health and Senior Services – Tricia Schlechte

A statute was passed a number of years ago establishing the Missouri Juvenile Justice Information Sharing System to facilitate sharing

information on juveniles who were in DYS, DSS, HSS, and DMH. This system continues to be very helpful.

Children Trust Fund – Bill Heberle

The Children's Trust Fund has been negotiating with the Parents As Teachers National Center and will probably provide them approximately \$55,000 for the new fiscal year to fund PAT educators.

Funding for fiscal year 2005 will be approximately two million dollars.

Education and Secondary Education – Bert Schulte

December is the big reporting month for DESE. School report cards are available on the department's website. Annual performance reports for accreditation were finalized the first of the month.

Economic Development – Brenda Horstman

Joe Driskill has resigned, and Kelvin Simmons has been appointed by the Governor as the new Director of Economic Development.

Public Safety – Charles Jackson

DPS is reviewing POST's curriculum for children neglect and abuse training on how to recognize and report child abuse. DPS is working with law enforcement regarding meth labs and making sure that children found in meth labs are checked by a physician.

Youth Services – Mark Steward

Mark Steward shared a success story. A former DYS client that graduated from a DYS program testified before the Appropriation Committee and is currently the youngest student body president in the history of the University of Missouri.

Social Services – Steve Renne

DSS was successful in capturing an extra \$83 million from the federal government in Medicaid Funds that was used to release funding for school districts.

DSS is moving forward with enhancing background checks for foster parents through the Highway Patrol fingerprinting unit.

Corrections – Gary Kempker

Julie Rollins heads a multi-disciplinary team looking at the existing offender visitation policy which is in the process of making recommendations for changes in this policy.

The recommended changes were completed the first week of December. Last week the Superintendents were briefed on the recommendations. Julie reported that the final draft of recommendations will be given to Director Kempker on December 22, 2003.

Other Business

– Thanks to the Office of Administration, Anne and Keely, the Commission now has a website. Julie Youmans, Legislative Assistant, will work on the flow of the information on the website.

Action Item: Submit any suggestions on material for the website to Julie Youmans in Representative Riback Wilson's office.

Child Advocacy Day

– Mark your calendars for Child Advocacy Day, Tuesday, January 27, 2004. An information table will be set up at the Truman Building. The Commission will have a booth with the sub-committee reports and general information about the Commission.

Next meeting is a joint- meeting with Family and Community Trust executive board members, January 26, 2004, from 10 until 2:00, House Hearing Room 1. Lunch will be provided.